

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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R 221138Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2358

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, SY

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS PLAY ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 2267 NOTAL

1. KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING APRIL 19. PRESS SAYS THAT WHILE SECRETARY DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ADVISE ISRAEL TO ACT WITH RESTRAINT IN GOLAN FIGHTING FOR SAKE OF DISENGAGEMENT TALKS, THIS CLEARLY WAS HIS WISH. DINITZ REPORTEDLY PROVIDED NO ISRAELI REACTION TO SHIHABI PROPOSALS. SECRETARY IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING BEEN STILL MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC HE CAN NARROW SYRIAN-ISRAELI GAP DURING FORTHCOMING DAMASCUS-JERUSALEM SHUTTLE. THAT SYRIA, DESPITE SHOOTING, STILL INTERESTED IN DISENGAGEMENT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN APPRAISAL OF SECRETARY AND ALSO OF UNDER SECRETARY SISCO IN APRIL 19 TALK WITH RABBI ISRAEL MILLER. SECRETARY REPORTEDLY BRIEFED DINITZ ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S CONVERSATION WITH FAHMY; EGYPTIAN WARNING OF POSSIBLE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR SYRIA DESCRIBED AS INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC EGYPTIAN CONSUMPTION; NO US ARMS DEALS WITH EGYPT "CURRENTLY UNDER UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSIDERATION."

2. KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING APRIL 20. ACCORDING TO PRESS, DISENGAGEMENT ISSUES WERE NOT DISCUSSED, ONLY GOLAN SHOOTING WHICH US FELT SURE GOI WOULD KEEP FROM DEGENERATING INTO MAJOR FIGHTING. SECRETARY NOW EXPECTED IN ISRAEL MAY 2.

3. DAYAN STATEMENT APRIL 20. DAYAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT DESPITE GOI'S DESIRE FOR SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT, IT WOULD NOT TIE IDF'S HAND IN ANSWERING SYRIAN PROVOCATIONS. BUT AT SAME TIME, ISRAEL BEING GUIDED BY ITS DETERMINATION " NOT TO UPSET OR UNDERMINE PROSPECTS FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA." IF ISRAEL DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WERE ANY PROSPECTS, IT WOULD CONDUCT CURRENT FIGHTING WITH SYRIAN QUITE DIFFERENTLY. DAYAN ADDED THAT SYRIA FOR ITS PART WAS NOT USING ITS MAXIMUM FIRE POWER IN CURRENT FIGHTING, AND THAT HE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY FACT DAMASCUS SENT SHIHABI TO WASHINGTON WITH CONCRETE PROPOSAL. DAYAN CHARGED USSR WITH " POURING OIL ON BONFIRE" OUT OF DISLIKE FOR SECRETARY'S EXCLUSIVE MEDIATING ROLE.

4. EBAN SPEECH APRIL 19. PRESS CITES EBAN AS STATING SYRIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS " VERY FAR APART" ON SUCH ISSUES AS LOCATION OF DISENGAGEMENT LINE, LIMITATIONS ON FORCES, AND CREATION OF BUFFER ZONE. EBAN VOICED OPINION ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO CONTEND WITH JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN ISSUE IN 1974 AND SHOULD NOT TRY TO POSTPONE THIS.

5. MEIR MESSAGE TO WORLD JEWRY. IN MESSAGE (EVIDENTLY SENT APRIL 21) ON OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, MRS MEIR IS QUOTED AS SAYING ISRAEL PREPARED "TO TAKE ANY REASONABLE RISK" AND " MAKE EVERY CREDIBLE COMPROMISE" TO ACHIEVE SECURE PEACE WITH ARABS, BUT NEVER AT EXPENSE OF ITS "VITAL SECURITY NEEDS".

6. NIXON VISIT TO CAIRO. PRESS COVERAGE OF APRIL 20 ASSERTION BY AL AHAM THAT PRESIDENT NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT EGYPT IN LATE MAY SUGGESTS VISIT IS CONTINGENT ON SECRETARY'S SUCCESS IN CONCLUDING SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

7. USTSO VERSUS UNEF. PRESS SAYS THERE HAS BEEN TALK IN WASHINGTON ON POSSIBLE BEEFING UP OF UNTSO ELEMENT IN GOLAN AREA IN LIGHT SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF UNEF BUFFER ZONE.
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ADDS IT WAS " REVEALED" APRIL 21 THAT EACH UNTSO POST ON SYRIAN SIDE OF LINE CURRENTLY HAS ONE US AND ONE SOVIET OBSERVER, BUT ISRAEL NOT PERMITTING ANY SOVIET OBSERVERS ON IST SIDE. IT ASSUMED UNTSO ENLARGEMENT ON AGENDA FOR DAYAN'S APRIL 22 SESSION WITH NEW UNTSO COMMANDER LILJESTRAND.
KEATING

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